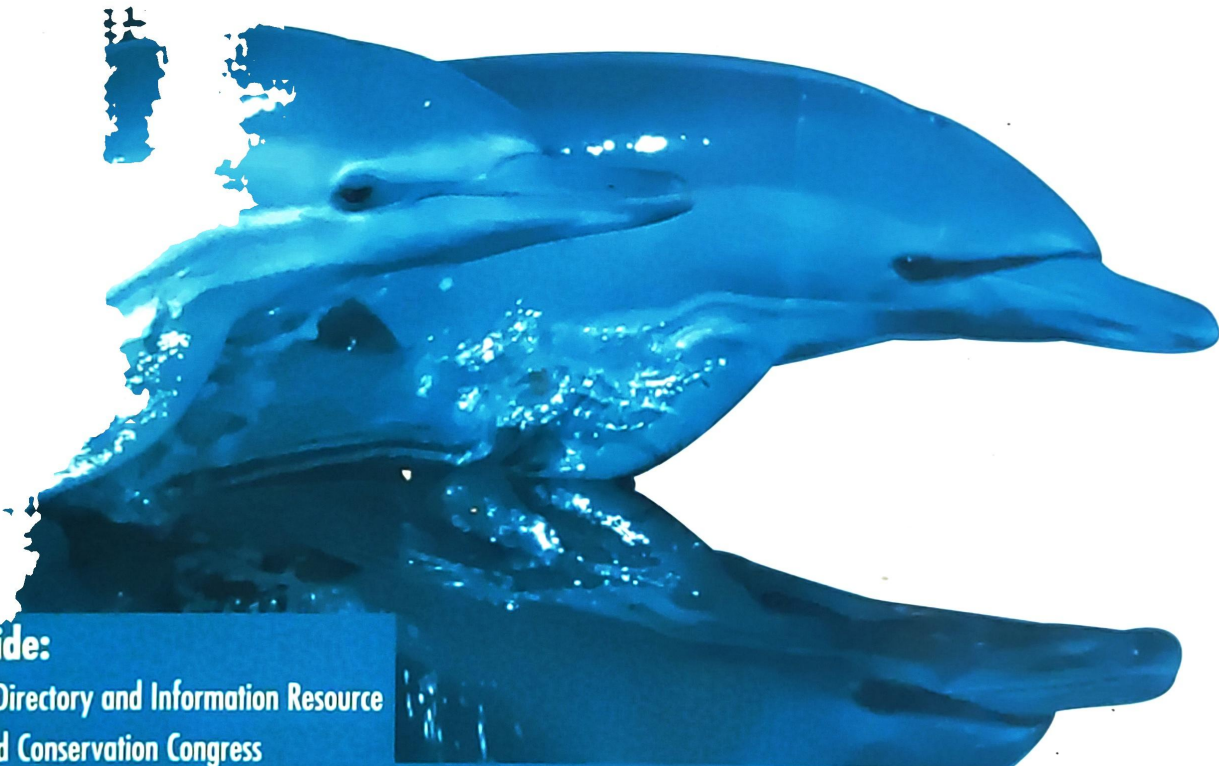


Species

Newsletter of the Species Survival Commission
IUCN—The World Conservation Union
NUMBER 39, JANUARY–JUNE 2003



Inside:

- SSC Directory and Information Resource
- World Conservation Congress
- Threatened Sharks Down Under
- Climate Changes Species Survival
- World Parks Congress



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IUCN
The World Conservation Union

Species is the newsletter of the Species Survival Commission of IUCN—The World Conservation Union. Commission members, in addition to providing leadership for conservation efforts for specific plant and animal groups, contribute technical and scientific counsel to biodiversity conservation projects throughout the world. They provide advice to governments, international conventions, and conservation organizations.

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Message from the Chair

The SSC Strategic Planning process occupied a considerable amount of time a couple of years ago, and as we move into the IUCN Programme planning process leading up to the next World Conservation Congress, the Executive Committee is once again turning its attention to updating the Strategic Plan. I am sometimes asked "Why all this attention to a planning document?" That question is often followed with the statement "I'd rather spend my time doing something real for conservation!" I'd like to spend a few moments examining those two sentiments, and give you some of my perspectives on how the two are linked, and how we can all contribute to real conservation.

The Vision in the SSC Strategic Plan is an extension of the Vision of IUCN. While that for the Union as a whole speaks of "A just world that values and conserves nature", the SSC adds a more ambitious qualifier - "A just world that values and conserves present levels of biodiversity". This defines our long term goal, and our contribution to meeting the overall vision of IUCN.

The Goal of the Strategic Plan - what we would like to achieve in the 10 year time horizon of the Strategic Plan, by 2010 - is that "the extinction crisis and massive loss of biodiversity are universally adopted as a shared responsibility, resulting in action to reduce this loss of diversity within species, among species, and of ecosystems." Cumbersome wording, perhaps, but there is a lot packed into those words:

- *recognition that we are in the midst of an extinction crisis*
- *recognition that we all bear part of the responsibility*
- *recognition that responding to that crisis will require a paradigm shift in global patterns of human interactions*
- *recognition that the immediate need is to reduce the loss of diversity*
- *recognition that we need to act at all three levels of diversity*

I'd like to come back to the words "reduce the loss of diversity", and describe part of the reasoning that underlies that formulation. At the meeting in Djerba, Tunisia where the first draft of the SSC Strategic Plan was developed, there was an intense debate over the wording of this goal. Some wanted to "stop the loss of biodiversity", or to "halt extinctions", while others argued that such goals were simply unrealistic and we should instead attempt to "slow the rate of increase in the loss". After a brief lecture on second derivatives of a function by our resident mathematician, Professor Harry Messel, we settled on the wording "reduce the loss of biodiversity" - probably not entirely achievable in the time frame we set, but it conveys the message that enough is enough, it is time to take action.

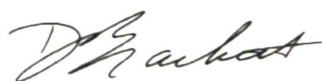
About a year later, that debate informed one of the two conservation goals of the overall IUCN Programme - Facing the Extinction Crisis. And it informed the debate a little later, in a meeting in Seychelles and later at the 6th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in The Hague, as the CBD discussed its own Strategic Plan. And that in turn was instrumental

in setting the target in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation arising from the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). In both of the latter two cases, the adopted goal is to "significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010". Less ambitious than the goal of the SSC, but then again, it was governments making the commitment, and not a conservation commission.

So, I can trace a direct line from the SSC discussions in Djerba to the adoption of a target for the conservation of biodiversity in three intergovernmental fora. "So what?" I hear some ask. Well, establishing the goal of facing the extinction crisis as one of the principal goals of the IUCN means that the various components of the Union are required to align their activities in support of that goal. When budgets are developed, the budget review team and the IUCN Council ask how the planned activity will contribute to meeting the goals of the organization. That should, and I believe does, translate into more attention to conservation projects on the ground, especially in the regional programmes.

The case is even stronger when it comes to the CBD and WSSD statements. The latter put biodiversity on the agenda of global leaders and linked biodiversity conservation to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and the former provides the policy advice to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which is one of the largest sources of funding for conservation projects in developing countries. That means more attention from Finance Ministers as well as Environment Ministers, and it means more money for projects in developing countries. It also means that developed countries establish programs to report against the MDGs and WSSD targets. In short, more conservation action on the ground.

I think the SSC Strategic Plan has already had an impact on the global debate, and that we have helped increase the level of acknowledgement of the problem of biodiversity loss. But there is still a long way to go with respect to getting the needed responses in place. I encourage each of you to ask yourself, in your work as a member of the SSC or in your other activities "Is this moving us forward on our goal of reducing the loss of biodiversity?" And then to ask the same question of others; and demand a positive response from each and every one. By working together we can, and will, make a difference.



David Brackett—Species Survival
Commission Chair



World Parks Congress this September

With more than 2,500 participants from some 170 countries expected to attend, the 5th IUCN World Parks Congress, 8 to 17 September, Durban, South Africa, will be the largest conservation event in the wake of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. This is a unique once-in-a-decade event and offers the opportunity to take stock of protected areas, provide an honest appraisal of progress and setbacks, and chart the course for protected areas over the next decade and beyond.

Protected areas represent some of humankind's earliest efforts to conserve the natural resources on which our survival and well-being depend. The 20th century was a period of unprecedented change, escalating development and destructive impact on natural resources, but it has also seen an impressive growth in the number of protected areas, from a mere handful in 1900, to over 44,000 covering more than 10% of the Earth's land surface. Although protected areas have never been needed more, the threats to these areas continue to increase. Whether as reservoirs of biological diversity, sources of clean air and water, buffers from storms, sinks for carbon or places to reconnect with nature, protected areas are vitally important to safeguarding our individual and collective futures.

The challenge before the 2003 Congress will be to show how protected areas are relevant to the broader economic, social and environmental agenda for humankind in the 21st century. Benefits Beyond Boundaries, the theme of the Congress, responds to this challenge. It reaches out to new con-

stituencies and partners, reinforcing the vital contribution that protected areas make to sustaining life on earth. It also reflects a growing understanding of the many values that protected areas provide and the shifting approaches to their establishment and management.

SSC will be having a significant input to the Congress. As well as being involved in several of the workshop streams, the meeting offers the chance for the Commission to showcase its products, activities and achievements. There will be demonstrations of the Species Information Service, the Red List website, and a publications display. A series of posters will highlight SSC's work as it relates to protected areas and their management. During the Congress, a reception will be held for SSC members and partners from the southern Africa region. This will be an invaluable opportunity for colleagues to get together in an informal setting, exchange experiences and make new contacts.

In the run-up to the Congress, the IUCN communications team will be highlighting a series of protected area stories for the website, as well as other outlets such as electronic bulletins. We call on

Specialist Groups to send in news of their activities relating to species and protected areas (including Marine Protected Areas) to be included in the various communications activities. This could include examples of species that have benefited from a protected area, or case studies of how and why a protected area could help secure continued survival. Examples of sustainable use activity relating to a protected area are also welcome.

For more information see
www.iucn.org/wpc2003

Team Species

Multitude of Problems Push Grebes Toward Extinction

Grebes have a sad extinction record among birds. Several grebes are more or less endemic to single wetlands, and as such doomed to become blind alleys on the tree of life. It is noteworthy that three species (*Podilymbus gigas*, *Podiceps andinus*, *Tachybaptus rufolavatus*) out of 22 went extinct over just 30 years. Another, the Junín flightless grebe (*Podiceps taczanowskii*) has long been recognized as critically threatened. The main problems have been changes in wetland ecosystems, exotic fish introductions and use of gill-nets.

The Junín flightless grebe declined from well over 1,000 birds in 1961 to 300–350 around 1980. Over the last two decades, the flightless grebe population may sometimes have been down to about 100 birds, but apparently it recovered well in years that had adequate water. The principal problems are contamination from mining activities and water level changes caused by a hydroelectric power plant. The shore meadows around Lake Junín in the Peruvian Andes, home to this species, have experienced severe heavy metal pollution. Fortunately, after decades of debate, the Peruvian government recently passed a law announcing a clean-up of Lake Junín.

While there is some hope in Junín, a new disaster threatens in another Andean wetland. Until a few years ago, the Titicaca flightless grebe (*Rollandia microptera*) was common in many places around Lake Titicaca and south to Uru-Uru and Poopó in Bolivia. This species has a high breeding potential, but because of its limited range it was classified as Vulnerable in the 1997 *Grebe Action Plan*. It seems now that this was too optimistic. During the 1990s several birdwatchers looked in vain for it at traditional sites, and when a survey was carried out in June 2001 it was clear that the species had serious problems. In Laguna Umayo, near



Send in your species and protected areas news



Puno, Peru, 700 birds were counted in 1977, 1,147 in 1986, but only four birds in 2001. In other places declines were less dramatic, but it is clear that the total numbers are only a small fraction of what could be found in the past. The decline in Laguna Umayo could partly be explained from a regulation of the water levels and disappearance of reed-beds. However, there is little doubt that the principal factor is use of monofilament fishing nets that are now widely available. Grebes are drowned incidentally in the nets, as well as hunted by the Uru Indians for food and medicine. Finally, the whole lake ecosystem has been seriously affected by exotic fish introductions.

A coordinated grebe survey of the entire Titicaca-Desaguadero-Poopo wetlands is planned to take place soon. The survey aims to better document the problem and to identify sites with good breeding populations where local communities are receptive to declaring gillnet-free zones. For more information contact the Grebe Specialist Group at jfjeldsaa@zmuc.ku.dk.

Jon Fjeldsaa, Grebe Specialist Group Chair

Conserving Australia's Threatened Plants

In *Species 37* (Plant Programme Update), the "top 50" threatened plants project was introduced to ultimately encourage investment in plant conservation. Here's what conservation scientists from Kings Park and Botanic Garden in Perth, Western Australia, are doing to achieve practical conservation outcomes for two of the world's rarest plant species.

The Corrigin Grevillea (*Grevillea scapigera*) is a Critically Endangered species endemic to the wheatbelt region of Western Australia. Today, only five plants exist in the wild, all on highly vulnerable roadside verges. It is threatened by land clearance, with as much as 95% of its habitat already destroyed. In 1989, 47 plants were known, and a genetically representative subset of 10 plants was propagated by tissue culture for translocation into secure sites. The first large-scale re-introductions took place in 1996 and further plantings have taken place each year since. These re-introductions are done under strict guidelines, led by the *Grevillea scapigera* Recovery Team. By August 2001, 684 plants had been established in translocation sites, most of which have flowered prolifically, producing a continuous carpet of strongly scented white flowers in spring. An additional site was established in 2000 with almost all plants grown from seeds from the first translocation site following new advances in seed germination techniques. Seed production has been considerable, and more than 30,000 seeds have been collected from the artificially grown plants for germination, scientific research or long-term storage.

The approach to the recovery of the Corrigin Grevillea is an impressive success story that offers a model for rare plant recovery.

Bancroft's Symonanthus (*Symonanthus bancroftii*) is an extremely rare small dioecious shrub from the Western Australian wheatbelt. First collected in 1892, only one male plant and one female plant are currently known from the wild. The re-discovery of Bancroft's Symonanthus was therefore very exciting! Using a small amount of shoot material, conservation scientists at Kings Park and Botanic Garden began an in vitro propagation program, which has proven to be very successful. The first micropropagated plants were grown in soil in 1999. The following year, female plants were artificially pollinated with pollen from male plants and seed produced. A small sample of seed was germinated in tissue culture and one seedling plant was successfully grown and multiplied in vitro. Upon flowering in 2001, the plant was identified as a female. "Adam" and "Eve" had produced a daughter! Hundreds of micropropagated plants of "Adam", "Eve" and "Daughter" genotypes were established into trial translocation plots within natural remnant bushland. These first steps towards recovery are being closely monitored with the assistance of the local community and local conservation officers.

This recovery process for Bancroft's *Symonanthus* is truly a case of "back from the brink", but much more work is still required.

Siegy Krauss and Kingsley Dixon, Australasian Plant Specialist Group member

Truly a case of "back from the brink"



Conference Confirms Iberian Lynx Crisis

The Iberian lynx is on the brink of extinction with yet another catastrophic decline noted at a November, 2002 international conference. The meeting, convened by the Spanish Environmental Ministry, the Junta de Andalucía, the Council of Europe, Doñana Biological Station, WWF/Adena and the Cat Specialist Group, heard the species has declined by nearly 90% in less than 15 years.

In addition to proposals to safeguard lynx habitat and to ensure space is available for populations to expand, delegates called for effective measures to prevent human-induced mortality and for an immediate start to captive breeding. The conference, held in Andujar, was told the latest Iberian lynx survey in Spain suggests that as few as 150 lynx remain in just

two breeding populations in Coto Doñana and Andujar-Cardena. A few other scattered individuals may survive in East Montes de Toledo, West Sistema Central and some areas of

the Sierra Morena Mountains but no evidence of reproduction was found. In 1988 a similar survey produced an estimated population of 1,000 to 1,200.

IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group co-Chair, Dr. Urs Breitenmoser noted there was strong evidence to show that the small isolated patches distributed along the Sierra Morena and all the way to Portugal have collapsed in recent years. He warned that spontaneous recovery may no longer be possible and that any further stress, such as a rabbit or lynx disease, would seal the fate of the species.

The news from Portugal was disastrous. A camera trapping and box trapping survey conducted earlier this year by the Instituto da Conservacao da Natureza failed to detect a single lynx. Intensive ongoing efforts to find lynx in the Guadiana Valley, believed to be the only area capable of supporting a viable lynx population, have also proved fruitless. In the 1980s, a census estimated a Portuguese population of 40-50.

Scientists from the Estacion Biologica de Doñana identified three main factors making the Iberian lynx vulnerable - a very reduced range, and a narrow prey base and habitat spectrum. In recent years, these factors have been exacerbated by high rates of human-induced mortality, a collapse in rabbit populations and habitat destruction.

The IUCN upgraded the Iberian lynx from Endangered to Critically Endangered in its 2002 *Red List of Threatened Species*. During the meeting, members of the Cat Specialist Group released a statement calling for quick action to conserve the remaining breeding populations, and the species as a whole.

Report provided by Lucy Farmer of the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe at:
<http://large-carnivores-lcie.org>

Cat Specialist Group

Viable population of Bruijn's Brush-turkey discovered

After a very successful opportunistic visit to Waigeo Island, Papua province, Indonesia in May 2002, which resulted in the first field observations ever of the endemic and rare Bruijn's Brush-turkey (*Aepyodius bruijnii*) and discovery of its nest mound, Belgian birder Iwein Mauro returned to Waigeo in October 2002. During an extensive two-month survey, sponsored by The Netherlands Foundation for International Nature Protection (Van Tienhoven Foundation), Mauro discovered an incredible 28 incubation mounds in a relatively small area and frequently observed the species there. Hence at long last the existence of a viable population has been brought to light, enabling down-to-earth assessment of population size and conservation status of this nearly mythical species. Mauro, who is still in Indonesia, will further report in the October issue of the Megapode Newsletter. The surveys executed by Mauro are under the auspices of the Megapode Specialist Group. Full results will be published in scientific and conservation journals. For further information you can contact René W.R.J. Dekker at dekker@naturalis.nnm.nl

Megapode Newsletter, Vol. 17 no.1

The Iberian lynx has declined by nearly 90%

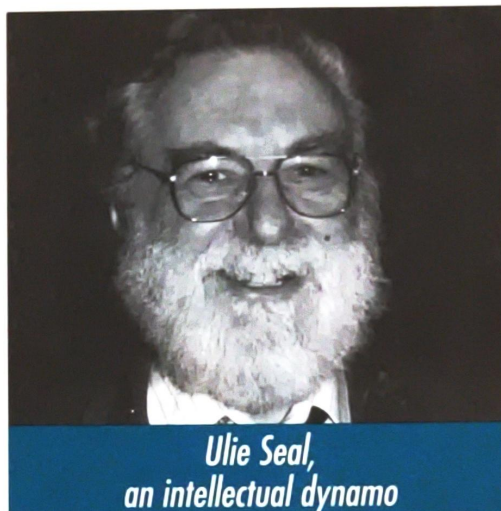


Sad Loss of Two Conservation Heroes

Ulie Seal

***A tremendous leader, an intellectual dynamo,
a source of innovation***

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Ulysses S. Seal, Chairman of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) since its inception. Ulie's passion, his commitment, his seemingly boundless energy has been a tremendous inspiration to many and a tremendous force for conservation action. Throughout his career, Ulie has made countless contributions to human health, animal health and wildlife conservation. These contributions have been recognized time and time again through the many awards he received throughout his career. Indeed, his legacy is also honored by the creation of the South East Asian Zoos Association's "Ulie Seal Award". The Conservation Breeding Specialist Group has dedicated a tribute to Ulie on its website at <http://www.cbsg.org>. There you will also find a special message from the new CBSG Chair, Dr. Robert Lacy.



Márcio Ayres

***Conservation has lost a real champion, the Amazon has lost
its most eloquent spokesperson***

SSC's Regional Vice-Chair for Brazil, José Márcio Ayres died 7 March, 2003. Márcio's love of the Amazon inspired him to work for the protection of the Amazonian rainforest through the creation of the Mamirauá and Amanã Sustainable Development Reserve. His vision called for a protected area where the local people would remain as guardians, and managers, of the ecosystem. Unique at the time, Márcio brought attention to a new way of thinking about ecosystem conservation. He has received numerous awards for his work, most recently the Rolex Award for Enterprise. His legacy will continue on through the work of the Mamiraua Institute for Sustainable Development (see <http://www.mamiraua.org.br/>), the Sociedad Civil Mamirauá and the Wildlife Conservation Society's Flooded forest project (<http://www.floodedforest.com/ff-home>). Márcio was a Senior Conservation Zoologist for the Wildlife Conservation Society, and their Carter Chair in Rainforest Ecology.



Team Species



Programme Updates

Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment

Efforts this year are concentrating on regional training workshops for subsequent biodiversity assessments in inland waters, focusing on South East Asia (Lower Mekong River Basin) and East Africa. In February the first training workshop was held in Vientiane in Lao PDR. Attended by 25 participants from each of the four countries of the Lower Mekong Basin, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam, training was provided in the background and application of the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria* for aquatic freshwater taxa. Participants greeted the session with great enthusiasm. It is hoped that this will provide a solid basis upon which to raise funds for a subsequent assessment of aquatic biodiversity throughout the Lower Mekong River Basin, supporting the goals of both the IUCN regional program and the Freshwater Biodiversity Programme.

The methodology developed, in last year's June workshop, for identifying "Important Sites" for conservation of biodiversity in inland waters was presented at the Second International Symposium on the Management of Large Rivers for Fisheries (LARS2) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The methodology will be further developed during the year through two technical working groups tasked with drawing up taxon-specific guidelines for applying the selection criteria to fishes and molluscs. It is intended that the methodology will be field tested on the information generated through our eastern Africa biodiversity assessment.

In February the Programme was successful in obtaining funds from the Dutch Government (DGIS), through Wetlands International and with co-funding from the IUCN Water and Nature Initiative, to conduct the first regional assessment of aquatic biodiversity in eastern Africa. The project has partners in Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Burundi and Uganda. A training workshop was hosted by the IUCN East Africa Regional Office in May this year and the biodiversity assessment will be conducted from May through to October 2003. A second workshop will be held in November to evaluate the results and to identify "Important Sites" for conservation of biodiversity in the inland waters of eastern Africa. A Red List of eastern Africa's inland aquatic biodiversity will be an output. All information will be made available to regional policy and decision-makers. Efforts will continue in raising funds for further regional training workshops and biodiversity assessments globally.

The Programme continues to provide input to the Convention on Biological Diversity's program of work in inland waters, and to the Ramsar Convention, and we are preparing a presentation for the World Parks Congress in September this year. Over the next year we will be exploring the potential for a number of new partnerships.

Will Darwall

Plant Programme

The highlight to begin the year has been the start of the "Top 50" plants campaign thanks to a generous grant from the MAVA Foundation. The first pilot project for this campaign is being undertaken with the Mediterranean Island Plant Specialist Group (see their report in this issue). It is obvious that the hundreds of plant species on the brink of extinction do not receive the same level of public attention as other, more charismatic, species. The Plant Conservation Committee developed the "Top 50" campaign to raise awareness and undertake conservation action on a focused group of Critically Endangered plant species. This pilot project will develop

communications tools to serve as a model for each SSC Plant Specialist Group to then implement its own "Top 50" project. Specifically, each Group will produce a booklet providing information on the 50 most critically threatened species under their purview (noting threats and conservation measures needed). The booklet will also be produced on CD-ROM and posted on the Internet. In addition, on-the-ground action aiming to ensure these "Top 50" species do not go extinct is planned. The Mediterranean Island Plant Specialist Group is already catalyzing projects for some of their "Top 50" species and it is hoped that other projects will follow.

SSC is working to further the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in April 2002, in a number of ways. Funds to undertake the monumental, but not impossible, task of a Global Plant Assessment are being sought. However, many Specialist Groups are already submitting plant evaluations for the next Red List. SSC is also working with Plantlife, an IUCN member and important partner, on examining and applying the Important Plant Area criteria, developed for Europe, elsewhere in the world. This will be based on the work undertaken by BirdLife for Important Bird Areas. An Important Plant Areas workshop is being organized for Mediterranean countries from 26-27 June in collaboration with the IUCN Regional Office for Mediterranean Cooperation. Also, a side event on Important Plant Areas will be held at the World Parks Congress in September, and another meeting in Asia is envisaged for November.

A first meeting of the EU-funded Plant Genetic Resource Forum took place in Veria, Greece, under the leadership of Nigel Maxted. This initial planning meeting should result in a strong net-



Naufraga balearica

work of European experts on conserving crop wild relatives, which will subsequently be expanded globally. This project will work closely with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute-led project on the Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives.

Royal Botanic Garden Kew has recently published *Plant Conservation in the Tropics*, in collaboration with many SSC members. The publication includes a number of SSC's fundamental contributions in its appendices, as well as the text of the Convention on Biological Diversity, making this volume very useful to conservation practitioners both in and outside the tropics. Also, the Cycad Action Plan has gone to press and will be an important compendium on conservation issues and needs of the world's cycads.

Patricia Désilets, a "jeune professionnelle" from Canada, supported by the Québec Ministère des Affaires Internationales, will be working with the Plant Programme from June–December 2003, principally on the "Top 50" plants campaign. However she will also be providing support to Specialist Groups for Red Listing, so please do not hesitate to contact her—she speaks French, English and Spanish!

Wendy Strahm

Red List Programme

The 6th meeting of the Red List Programme Committee, held December 2002 at London Zoo, focused on planning for the production of the 2003 and 2004 *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. Key contributions will be the results from the Global Amphibian Assessment, reassessments of all birds through the BirdLife International network, and hopefully reassessments of a large proportion of the mammals. There are also plans to increase the coverage of plants (largely through the incorporation of data from a few geographic regions) and freshwater species (invertebrates and fish) through the Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment Programme. Much of the increased coverage is funding dependent and at this stage it is difficult to determine precisely how much better the taxonomic coverage for the 2004 Red List will be.

With improved taxonomic coverage, availability of distribution maps and documentation on habitats, threats, conservation actions and use, the Red List Committee is planning a number of new and exciting analyses of the Red List information. However, the production of the new edition of the Red List website, a new CD-ROM version, and the execution and publication of the analyses are highly dependent on funding. The Red List Programme is therefore delighted to announce, that through a joint funding proposal with the Institute of Zoology in London, we have secured a two-year grant from the Rufford Foundation, a UK-based charitable grant-making foundation. We thank the Rufford Foundation for recognizing the value and importance of the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*.

Another new development under the Red List Committee is the formation of a National Working Group to be lead by Dr. Jon Paul Rodríguez from Venezuela. This group will aim to facilitate communication between people involved in the production of national Red Lists and Red Data Books and the global IUCN Red List. It will also advise on the implementation of the IUCN Regional Application Guidelines, and facilitate the sharing of practical advice between national coordinators.

SSC members may be interested to note that the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) has adopted the IUCN Red List Categories (and Criteria) as a "decision support tool" when deciding on proposals to list species under Appendices I and II of the convention. The categories Critically Endangered and Endangered would contribute towards the assessment of listing migratory species on Appendix I, while the categories Vulnerable and Near Threatened would contribute towards the assessment of listing migratory species on Appendix II.

The Red List Programme has, for the last three years, been a participant in an INTAS funded project to look at correlates of extinction risk in Central Asian biodiversity. This project included a very successful Red List training course held in



The Red Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan released



Thanks to the Rufford Foundation



Uzbekistan in 2001, and as a result we are now starting to receive submissions of Red List assessments for a number of taxa endemic to this region. In addition, the Uzbekistan team involved in the project is responsible for the translation of the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria* into Russian (with assistance from IUCN Moscow), which in turn enabled the compilation and production of *The Red Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan* published in March 2003. The Red List Programme extends its congratulations and thanks to Dr. Elena Kreuzberg-Mukhina (SSC Regional Vice-Chair for Central Asia), Dr. Alexander Kreuzberg and Dr. Elena Bykova, who played key roles in these initiatives.

Craig Hilton-Taylor, Caroline Pollock

Wildlife Trade Programme

The publication, *Guidance for CITES Scientific Authorities: Checklist to assist in making non-detriment findings for Appendix II exports*, was the culmination of several years work and a series of workshops. Published in time for the 12th Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), it was mailed to all CITES Scientific Authorities in January 2003. The electronic version is available on the SSC website at: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/pubs/CITES/guidance.htm>. This publication arose from a collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, supported by the Taiwan Council of Agriculture and the US State Department voluntary contribution to IUCN. It aims to assist those Parties that are having difficulties in assessing whether or not harvest for international trade is likely to be detrimental. It provides a qualitative list of questions about species biology, manage-

ment and tenure of harvest and protection of species for CITES Authorities to consider when making a so called "non-detriment finding". Following COP 12, the program has also spent some time dissemin-

nating results to Specialist Groups and identifying areas where particular Groups might assist Parties in facilitating CITES implementation.

In January, representatives of the CITES Secretariat met the SSC Executive Committee and emphasized the opportunity for Commission members to provide support to Parties in developing adaptive management approaches based on appropriate monitoring of harvest impacts on both plant and animal species. Consequently, Specialist Groups dealing with species in use or trade might consider developing and disseminating technologically appropriate monitoring methods to help local communities, private

landowners, and statutory agencies in their obligations to ensure that any harvest from the wild is non-detrimental. Much use of wildlife occurs at the local level, often beyond the reach of state agencies and over-use of particular taxa can lead to switches to the use of other wildlife taxa as populations become depleted. Providing appropriate mechanisms for communities to gauge the impact of their harvest on local populations may empower them to make choices about alternative resource use before it is too late. Ensuring that needs for food, medicine or livelihood generation can be met through sustainable use of wild species can help generate incentives to maintain that species in the wild.

The Precautionary Principle Project consortium (involving IUCN Species Programme, IUCN Regional Office for Southern Africa, IUCN Environmental Law Centre, Resource Africa, Flora and Fauna International and TRAFFIC International) entered a new phase in January, with the employment of Dr. Rosie Cooney as the project coordinator. Rosie brings to the project a background in international environmental law and conservation biology. The project, formally entitled "The Precautionary Principle and Environmental Governance: Sustainable Development, Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity Conservation", was initiated with support from IUCN's 3 I-C Fund, which aims to stimulate innovation, integration, information and communication. The project is now moving ahead to raise the remaining support needed for its planned activities over the next three years. Rosie is currently developing a project website, and collecting literature, information and contacts to develop a comprehensive situation analysis looking at the impacts of use of the precautionary principle. She would welcome examples of application of the Precautionary Principle in natural resource management and conservation, where analysis of the outcomes of such application is possible, and in particular whether or not the observed outcome conformed to expectations or provided some surprises!

Alison Rosser, Mandy Haywood

We welcome your examples
of application of the
Precautionary Principle



Specialist Group Updates

African Rhino

In *Species* 38, I reported on a novel initiative by Cambell Scott and Hubert Planton to undertake another survey in Cameroon to confirm whether a nucleus for a viable population of western black rhino (*Diceros bicornis longipes*) still remains, and to dart and radio-collar any rhino seen. Encouragingly, following a recent visit to Cameroon, Cambell reports that there have been unsubstantiated reports from local scouts of as many as 17 animals in eight different areas that had previously not been surveyed. Cambell and Hubert plan to use rhino dung DNA analysis to determine the number of different individuals surviving.

Cross-boundary translocation and re-establishment of black and white rhinos continues with the first phase being the re-introduction of black rhino into North Luangwa National Park, Zambia and 21 white rhino onto Chiefs Island.

The Group (as a consortium partner) continues to give technical direction and input to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation. In March 2003, the second SADC Rhino Recovery Group Meeting was held in Maun, Botswana, at the same venue as the third SADC rhino range States meeting. Development of the WILDb rhino database continues, and the new RHINO 2.0 population estimate software has just been field tested in Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park and is scheduled for release in June. The first of a number of SADC sponsored "Scene of the Crime" training courses took place in Namibia in May.

The next updated version of the Group's successful modified "Sandwith" rhino monitoring training course for field rangers is also currently being produced with joint SADC and US Fish & Wildlife Service funding. This course will form the basis of the next SADC "training of trainers" course, which is likely to be held in Pilanesberg National Park, South Africa later this year. The UK's Darwin Initiative has also recently announced that it will, over the next four years, fund Kenyan efforts to build rhino monitoring capacity and assist Kenya

Wildlife Service's Rhino Programme implement and institutionalize a system of annual black rhino status reporting. This project will also develop a black rhino carrying capacity model for Kenyan conditions to aid decision-making. The Group's rhino monitoring training course will form the basis of courses to train trainers in

Kenya. The next meeting of the SADC Rhino Management Group will take place in June 2003 and one main activity will be to revise the South African National Black Rhino Plan. Specialist Group members have been, and continue to be, involved in all the above initiatives.

Finally, the Group would once again like to thank WWF's Africa Rhino Programme and WWF-US and WWF-SA for their support, which continues to allow the Specialist Group to function and be productive.

Martin Brooks, Chair

Australasian Plant

Recovery Conference

Recovery: A decade towards a biodiverse future was the theme of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation's Fifth National Conference and Conservation Techniques Workshops. Held in Geelong, Victoria in February 2003, the conference was hosted by the City of Greater Geelong.

Over 160 delegates from across Australia as well as New Zealand, Indonesia and the UK met to discuss current issues and developments in the recovery and conservation of Australia's threatened plants, communities and populations. Neglected and challenging plant groups including cryptogams and island floras featured in several presentations and workshops. A previously thought to be extinct species, *Geranium* Sp 1, received a greatly increased profile in the local and broader conservation community alike, as the feature species of the conference.

In addition to the papers and posters, a series of Conservation Techniques Workshops were held over two days, to allow delegates to further tap the expertise of the assembled specialists. This also provided an unprecedented injection of expertise into the region, enabling members of community groups to learn practical skills and the latest cutting-edge science. Twenty workshops were held on a range of subjects such as seed storage and gene banks, ecological genetics, cryptogam survey techniques, and assessing rarity and the risk of extinction.

The revision of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation's *Guidelines for the Translocation of Threatened Plants in Australia* was the focus of a workshop designed to enable input into the review of this document, published in 1997. Comments are currently being sought on the revision, prior to redrafting by a working group, and

Unsubstantiated reports of as many as 17 black rhinos



Seed dormancy workshop

Continued on Page 18



Third IUCN World Conservation Congress

AT THE WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS—THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY FOR CONSERVATION—IUCN MEMBERS GATHER TO SET THE WORK PRIORITIES OF THE UNION AND ELECT ITS COUNCIL FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD. THE CONGRESS PROVIDES A FORUM FOR DEBATE ON HOW BEST TO CONSERVE THE INTEGRITY AND DIVERSITY OF NATURE AND TO ENSURE THAT ANY USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES IS EQUITABLE AND ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE. IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF IUCN'S MEMBERS, COMMISSION MEMBERS AND THE WIDER IUCN CONSTITUENCY.

SSC Meeting at the World Conservation Congress

Your Input Needed

As is customary, a Commission-wide meeting will be convened for two days in advance of the Congress. This provides an ideal opportunity for SSC members and staff to share news and experiences, as well as make new contacts. As the opportunity arises only once every four years, we want to ensure that your vision of an effective Commission-wide meeting is met. To do so, we need your input!

Building on suggestions raised at past meetings, next year's meeting could include:

Panel discussions or workshops

Building on the SSC Strategic Plan targets, the Commission could have focused discussions on current and emerging conservation issues and the challenges and opportunities for addressing them.

Capacity Building

Chairs and members might wish to benefit from specialized training sessions in areas that will help improve the operations of Specialist Groups. Topics could include communication, fundraising or facilitation.

What would you like to see happen at the SSC Meeting?

Based on your comments, we will work to develop the meeting agenda. Updates will be provided regularly on the SSC website. SSC members listserve, the E-Bulletin and the next issue of Species keep checking the IUCN and SSC websites to stay updated on plans for the Congress.

<http://www.iucn.org>, and
<http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/index.htm>

Send your thoughts to the SSC Chair's Office at:

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351 St. Joseph Blvd.
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Tel: +1 819 997-4284
Fax: +1 819 994-5355
Email: ssc.chair@iucn.org or
ssc_iucn@cc.gc.ca

Specialist Group Reports

Updates from Specialist Groups are also at the heart of a Commission wide meeting but with 120 Groups, there is a danger these could dominate the meeting and limit the time available for valuable interaction. Short verbal presentations are one option, but perhaps other options should be considered to be able to include discussion or training sessions. One suggestion would be a poster session where Chairs and members can showcase their Group's work and answer members' questions. Collages of photos and news from the network could also be prepared and displayed.

Nominations for SSC Chair

IUCN members will elect the next Chair of the Species Survival Commission at the Bangkok World Conservation Congress. David Braker, outgoing Chair of the Commission, shared his thoughts.

"The demands on a Commission Chair, who is a volunteer like all SSC members, are enormous. It is, in fact, a full time job managing the SSC, which is itself a very large and complex organization operating within the framework of another large and complex organization.

"The SSC Chair is the network's representative. He or she will be called on to be the face of SSC internationally, and thus needs to have a good understanding of the international conservation arena. The Chair needs to command credibility with both non governmental and governmental audiences, and operate effectively in the political environment of the World Conservation Congress and IUCN Council.

"The SSC Chair is the Commission's chief fundraiser. Resources are few while the demands are large, and there is always a need for new and innovative approaches to fundraising.

"The major demand on the SSC Chair is time. He or she can expect to spend upwards of ten weeks per year at meetings, and over ten hours a week on correspondence, email or telephone. The job requires, at the very least, a part-time assistant.

"And, I think it goes without saying, the SSC Chair needs to have a viable passion for species conservation. The demands are heavy, but I truly believe SSC's significant contribution to species conservation makes it all worthwhile."

The Executive Committee formed a Nominations Team, led by Deputy Chair Cristian Samper, and including Georgina Mace, Russ Mittermeier and Jameson Seymour, to suggest potential candidates willing to be considered for the position of the next SSC Chair. If you would like to propose a candidate, please send your suggestions to the Nominations Team, c/o Carolina Caceres at ssc.chair-office@iucn.org.



17-25 November, 2004
Bangkok, Thailand

any comments can be directed to the contact details at the end of this article. The draft revision will also be circulated for comment.

The conference heralded the change of name of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation newsletter from *Danthonia* to *Australasian Plant Conservation: Journal of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation*. Keep a look out for the newsletter under its new name. For more information email jeanette.mill@ea.gov.au

Jeanette Mill, Chair

Bear

The Bear Specialist Group maintains a close affiliation with the International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA). Currently, the IBA President serves as Chair, with the past President as the Vice Chair to provide continuity of efforts. Therefore, I serve as Chair and Bruce McLellan serves as Vice Chair.

The overlap in function between IBA and the Group has made this close relationship possible.

In any three-year period, IBA holds two to three conferences orientated towards worldwide bear conservation, ecology, research and management. IBA publishes an annual journal, *Ursus*, and a quarterly newsletter, *International*

Bear News, both of which also serve as official publications of the Bear Specialist Group. Beginning with the next conference in San Diego in February 2004, all conferences will include working meetings of the Bear Specialist Group.

The Group is currently in the process of reorganizing and is now composed of eight Expert Teams: one for Andean (spectacled) bears, Asiatic black bears, brown bears in Europe, brown bears in Asia, giant pandas, sloth bears, and sun bears. In addition, we have an Expert Team in Trade in Bears and Bear Parts. Our goal is to have each Team chaired or co-chaired by residents of the region in which individual species exist. We also have a Coordination Committee that coordinates information, program and funding efforts and provides support for the Expert Teams. This committee also serves to address conservation issues for North American brown bears and American black bears, both of which are relatively secure on a continental basis.

The first task of the Expert Teams will be to re-evaluate Action Plans to list all needs for research, management, conservation, and education measures for their species or region of responsibility. Their second task will be to assign each measure

a priority rating. The Coordinating Committee will gather these ratings and rank the entire list based on importance to global bear conservation, efficacy, and whether they can be accomplished given available funding sources. These ratings will be provided to the IBA's Grant Review Program, which annually provides funds for conservation and research projects.

The IBA also established an Economic Development Committee, whose members include both biologists and very successful business people. This committee's charge is to establish an endowment fund to enable awarding of a more appropriate level of funding that will allow the Group and IBA to meet their objectives. The goal that the Economic Development Committee sets for funding will depend upon our ability to show that we are a trustworthy entity that can produce international conservation successes.

These experienced business people, working *pro bono* on our committee, think that a goal of up to three million dollars is reasonable, and once we show results, perhaps twice that amount is reachable. Let's hope so!

Harry Reynolds, Chair and Bruce McLellan, Vice Chair

China Plant

Throughout 2002, the China Plant Specialist Group has been very busy extending its influence in the conservation circles in China.

The reconstitution of our group is complete. We have invited a number of members representative of the different regions in China. All our 58 members share a strong, enthusiastic spirit of voluntarism, as well as a background in conservation, taxonomy and systematics, ecology and management. These members are the key "nodes" of the network, and our activities prove the network functions very well!

Twenty-five of our members attended the first members' meeting, November 2002 in Guangzhou, China. Priorities for the Group including our mandate, current status and future plans, were discussed. The participants noted the need to strengthen the evaluation process of a China Higher Plant Red List and communicate with conservation authorities of central and local government to improve the conservation of these species. Strengthening network communications and expanding our fundraising efforts are also key priorities.

The Group also committed to finalizing the *Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan: Plants of the Chinese Region*. This Plan will be instrumental in linking the Group to ongoing conservation activities in China.

Another focus for the Group is the China Higher Plants Red List Database, which was started in 2002 and uses the 2001 IUCN Red List Categories

Teams will list all bear research, management, and conservation needs



and Criteria (version 3.1). We have evaluated 1390 plant species, of which nine are determined Extinct or Extinct in the Wild and the remaining are threatened (Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable). We plan to continue this evaluation and expand our taxonomic coverage. In addition, we've had the opportunity to build awareness of the 2001 *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria* through presentations at conferences.

Communication is key and the Group has actively pursued information exchanges with other conservation societies. For instance, we have formed a cooperative relationship with other organizations in compiling the China Plant Red List. We have worked with the China CITES Authority regarding illegal trade of native orchids. The Group Co-Chair participated in the IUCN 1st and 2nd China Members meeting and the SSC Steering Committee Meeting, in 2002 and used these opportunities to build awareness of the China Plant Specialist Group's activities.

Qin HaiNing, Co-chair

Conservation Breeding

Software for Species Risk Assessment – Exciting News!

One of the cornerstones of the Group's workshop processes has been the Population and Habitat Viability Assessment, or PHVA. A core component of this highly participatory exercise is the use of simulation modeling of threatened species biology and population dynamics. Through this analysis, alternative management scenarios can be evaluated as an aid to making more informed decisions about the conservation of a given species or population.

We have developed and refined the popular software package VORTEX through the years into an indispensable modeling tool in the PHVA workshop. However, the software has remained a DOS-based program, and has therefore suffered from some important limitations, as today's Windows-based computers have become increasingly more sophisticated and powerful.

But these limitations are now a thing of the past. VORTEX version 9 is now a full-featured Windows package with many new characteristics designed to make data input and model interpretation and analysis much easier and more flexible. The software development team, led by Robert Lacy (Chicago Zoological Society and new Group Chair) and JP Pollak (Cornell University, New York), has added a flexible graphing component where a user can quickly transform tables of numerical output into high-quality graphical results. In addition, there is now a Notes feature that allows the user to fully annotate all model

input, and export this text to a word processor for further editing. Combine this with easy export of graphs produced from the output data, and the user can produce a detailed and professional-looking report directly within VORTEX itself. Of course, these and other new features complement the same range of characteristics that made earlier version of VORTEX the model of choice for many risk assessment practitioners.

In addition to a major overhaul of VORTEX, we have been developing yet another simulation model of the dynamics of infectious disease in wildlife populations. Called OUTBREAK, the program will be initially designed as a stand-alone package, but will ultimately be able to link directly with VORTEX for more realistic and informative treatment of the impacts of disease in threatened populations. OUTBREAK will be an extremely valuable tool for evaluating disease risks associated with wildlife conservation strategies and for comparing the costs and benefits of disease prevention and control programs. Moreover, it will serve as a unique teaching tool for both veterinary and ecology students in the field of wildlife diseases.

OUTBREAK is being developed by the same team of Bob Lacy and JP Pollak, in collaboration with a diverse team of veterinarians and wildlife disease epidemiologists. Support for this development is possible through a grant awarded by the Morris Animal Foundation. Initial software testing has been conducted in a series of CBSG-facilitated Disease Risk Assessment workshops conducted in Mexico, South Africa and Costa Rica. Release is tentatively set for mid-summer.

Check www.cbsg.org for updated information on program features and release dates.

Phil Miller, Programme Officer

OUTBREAK, evaluating disease risks associated with conservation strategies

Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force

We have recently completed our allocation of Seed Grants for 2003 (see *Species 38*, Special Feature to learn more about the seed grant program). This year, we received 63 applications from 32 countries, and we are funding 20 projects, an outlay of about USD 34,500. Our budget this year has been enhanced by a generous contribution from the US Department of the Interior's Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative (ARMI), which is supporting five projects in North America. In the period 1992 to 2003, the Task Force has funded 135 projects through its Seed Grant programme, an outlay of USD 242,000. These projects are distributed across

37 different countries. This year, for the first time, we are funding projects in Guatemala, Nepal and Serbia.

The current Chair of the Task Force, Jim Hanken, will be stepping down at the end of June. We are delighted that he will be succeeded by Jim Collins of Arizona State University.

We are engaged in discussions with Conservation International about the relationship of the Task Force with the new Global Amphibian Specialist Group that will address the conservation of amphibian diversity. The Declining Amphibians Task Force provides the Global Amphibian Specialist Group with scientific expertise and advice while continuing its role as an initiator and supporter of scientific research.

The increasing interest among scientists in the distribution and causes of amphibian declines is reflected by a burgeoning number of papers in the scientific literature. About 20 papers are currently published every month and we provide monthly listings of these at our web site, located at www.open.ac.uk/daptf.

Tim Halliday, International Director

Deer

Deer have generated many surprises for biological sciences. The description of a new species of large mammal is an extraordinary event yet, in the last decade a new species of *Muntiacus* (in Asia) and *Mazama* (in Latin America) have been described. The Deer Action Plan recommended special actions and strategies for the endangered species from Asia and South America. Arguably, these biodiversity-rich regions have the greatest number of threatened deer species and the highest number of poor people.

The Action Plan implementation in these regions is a challenge and the appointment of Susana González as Chair may provide an extraordinary opportunity to focus South American stakeholders' attention on

conservation. Thanks go to Chris Wemmer, who decided to step down as Deer Specialist Group Chair in 2001, for his leadership in compiling and editing the Deer Action Plan.

The Group is aiming to develop a qualified membership focused on the regions in which there are threatened species, that is Asia and South America. Improving the currently critical conservation status of many deer populations and their habitats, thus contributing to the conservation of biodiversity, is our main objective. Steps towards this objective include training local biologists to ensure a network, promoting field research recommended by the Action Plan, obtaining infor-

mation to manage the deer populations and proposing conservation measures.

During the past two years, the Group has organized and participated in seven workshops, six in South America and one at the 5th International Deer Biology Congress in Quebec, Canada. The Group has also developed a small grant research program on endangered deer from South America, supported by the Wildlife Trust and compiled scientific and educational materials on CD. In addition, we continue to maintain and update our web page, <http://www.iibce.edu.uy/citogenetica/deer>, and communicate through our listserv and electronic newsletter, whose editorial board is composed of Don Moore, Mariano Merino, Mauricio Barbanti, Mark Sturm and Laurenz Pinder.

We are seeking support for future planned activities including workshops to train in population estimation techniques, *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria* to update deer assessments, and to update the Action Plan, as well as to begin a small grant program for endangered deer in Asia.

Susana González, Chair

European Invertebrates

The European Invertebrate Specialist Group is slowly taking shape, we have created a website which sets out our aspirations and which will, we hope, act as a focal point for information about invertebrate conservation in Europe. Have a look: www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/eisg and suggest any additions or improvements we should make.

The inaugural meeting of the Group will be held in Cardiff, UK on Monday 8 September. This meeting is timed to coincide with the 14th European Invertebrate Survey Colloquium, a two-day meeting on the theme of Red Listing at both European and national scales. Further details are available from www.jncc.gov.uk/INCardiff2003 and papers or posters are invited.

Deborah Procter, Chair

Grouper and Wrasses

One of the species of highest priority to the Group, the humphead or Maori wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*), narrowly missed the two-thirds majority needed for a CITES Appendix II listing at the 12th Conference of the Parties in Santiago. Since the species has only relatively recently attracted more widespread conservation concern, the degree of support was encouraging. The CITES exposure has heightened the profile of this wrasse, with renewed interest in several countries, following Santiago, of introducing stronger protective measures. Since last summer we have been running an awareness campaign on the species, largely funded by the Chicago Zoological

An opportunity to focus South American stakeholders' attention on conservation



Society, which is continuing this year. A biological, trade and fishery synopsis has just been completed after three years of data collection and general background information can be found at: <http://www.humpheadwrasse.info/>

Many of the larger, more valuable, species of grouper form large gatherings to reproduce. These 'spawning aggregations' come together for short periods each year, often at the same sites and hence are easy to find, making them particularly vulnerable to fishing pressure; and pressure is increasing. It was aggregation-fishing that led to an endangered status for the Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) in 1996. Many other groupers, as well as other reef species, could be similarly threatened wherever these aggregations are heavily exploited. Given this very clear risk to a very distinctive life history phase, the Group works closely with the Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations (SCRFA) to promote the conservation and management of reef fish spawning aggregations. At a recent meeting of ITMEMS2 (Second International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium /International Coral Reef Initiative), held in Manila, 24–27 March, 2003, a Call for Action, modeled on a SCRFA statement of concern, was adopted. Thanks go to Arthur Paterson of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas for his help. This Call for Action will be widely disseminated and considered in the implementation of management programs at local, national, regional and global levels. SCRFA is compiling a global database of spawning aggregations that will shortly be searchable through its website (<http://www.scrfa.org/>).

In Brazil, Group member Beatrice Ferreira Padovani is organizing a conservation project using the goliath grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*) as a flagship species. Meanwhile in South Africa, member Sean Fennessy reports on a new marine reserve, south of Durban, that will benefit groupers, such as *E. marginatus* as well as a number of vulnerable endemic sparids (sea breams or porgies). You can find more information in our most recent newsheet, at: <http://www.hku.hk/ecology/GroupersWrasses/iucnsg/index.html>.

Yvonne Sadovy, Chair

Iguana

In October 2002 the Iguana Specialist Group met in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, hosted by Parque Zoológico Nacional, or Zooodom, the national zoo of the Dominican Republic. Warm Dominican hospitality was evident in all aspects of this meeting. Many thanks to Dr. Alfonso Ferreira, director of Zooodom, who organized a wonderful meeting that included a trip to a protected national park, Isla Cabritos, to view wild Ricord's and rhinoceros iguanas. Dominican Republic is the only Caribbean island that has two sympatric species of *Cyclura*, and it was a wonderful opportunity for us to observe both species in their native habitat.

Two days were spent developing a Species Recovery Plan for Critically Endangered Ricord's iguana (*Cyclura ricordi*). The development of the Plan was facilitated by Fred Burton, Blue Iguana Recovery Group, and Quentin Bloxam, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. They did a terrific job of keeping us on task and the result was a very complete and ambitious document. The overall goal, "to ensure the long-term survival of *Cyclura*

Ensuring the long-term survival of *Cyclura ricordi*

ricordi throughout its natural range," will be implemented by the in-country Ricord's Iguana Recovery Group that was formed as a result of this meeting. Members of the group include Zooodom curatorial and veterinary staff, members of Grupo Jaragua (a local conservation organization), the sub-secretary of Vida Silvestre, and several other Dominican conservation biologists, with advice and assistance provided by the Group.

The Recovery Plan has several key components including a more complete census of iguanas in known and suspected habitats, habitat assessments, expansion of captive breeding facilities, development of local and international education programs, and fundraising. This year Grupo Jaragua received funding from the International Iguana Foundation to conduct rapid assessment surveys of all suspected habitats. This work will include aerial surveys to identify likely habitat, and monthly foot surveys in those areas during the summer and fall. The Indianapolis Zoo is spearheading a comprehensive survey of Ricord's and rhinoceros iguanas on Isla Cabritos, a protected national park with known populations of both iguanas. This study will involve setting and walking transects throughout the island, noting all iguanas spotted and identifying burrows, nesting spots, food items, and predators. Members of the Recovery Group are participating in both of these efforts.

In 2004, a meeting will be held in Dominican Republic to discuss the results of these surveys. We hope to further develop the Recovery Plan based on these results. Results of the survey work and additions to the Species Recovery Plan will be published after the meeting.



Everyone left the meeting with a strong sense of accomplishment, and it is our collective hope that through a team effort and hard work the implementation of this Plan will result in the survival of this critically endangered iguana. For more information contact: JRamer@INDYZOO.com

Jan Ramer, Group Member

Mediterranean Island Plant

The Mediterranean Island Plant Group is pleased to report it has been chosen as the pilot group to implement the "Top 50" plants campaign (see Plant Programme Update). We have begun by updating the Mediterranean "Top 50" list and ensuring that the Red List Categories have been correctly applied. We are also starting activity on three field projects on Corsica (*Anchusa crissa*—*Boraginaceae* or *Linaria flava*—*Scrophulariaceae*), the Balearic Islands (*Naufraga balearica* and *Apium bermejoi*—*Apiaceae*), and Crete, Greece (*Horstrissea dolinicola*—*Apiaceae*). These plants are so rare they don't have common names!

Angelo Troia, a Group member, has reported on "EOLIFE99", a "Life-Nature" project on the conservation of four endangered plant species of Aeolian Islands (Italy). Four of the plant species defined as "priority species of community interest" occur on the Aeolian Islands. These are *Cytisus aeolicus* (*Fabaceae*), a small tree endemic to the Aeolian Islands; *Bassia saxicola* (*Chenopodiaceae*), whose known populations occur only on three small islands in the Tyrrhenian Sea; *Silene hicesiae* (*Caryophyllaceae*) described from plants from Panarea and recently reported for Alicudi; and *Ophrys lunulata* (*Orchidaceae*), an endemic orchid of Sicily. All of these species have a narrow distribution and small populations.

The "EOLIFE99" project was promoted by the Municipality of Lipari with the scientific cooperation of Ecogestioni (cooperative society) and The Department of Cellular Biology of the University of Palermo. The project aims to ensure the survival of the four target species through *in situ* and *ex situ* actions such as the establishment of seed banks, propagation with the aid of bio-technologies and cultivation. Other actions include promoting public awareness, especially with the local population, and "pilot" re-introductions to boost natural populations and reduce the risks associated with direct or indirect human activities and volcanic activities. Plants will be "acclimatised" and cultivated in an *ad hoc* nursery in Lipari and the opportunities for transfer to the islands of origin taken into account. Additionally, information acquired during the pilot re-introduction project will be used for the *in situ* management of the target species.

Specifically, the applied study of root symbionts of *Cytisus aeolicus*, and the *in vitro* propagation of *Bassia saxicola* and *Silene hicesiae* were identified as important actions. With regard to the orchid, *Ophrys lunulata*, the aim of the project is to ascertain the presence of Aeolian populations, their location and threats.

The project (ending in September 2004) is being co-financed by the European Commission (75%) within the Life Programme. For more information check out <http://www.natour.it/eolife/> or contact angelo.troia@libero.it

Bertrand de Montmollin, Chair

Otter

First-ever giant otter field course held in Peru

In December, 2002, the first-ever international giant otter field course took place in Peru aiming to standardize distribution survey, population census and monitoring methodologies. The need for otter survey methodology standardization was emphasized during the VIII International Otter Colloquium in Valdivia, Chile, January 2001; standardized data is a valuable tool in the protection and management of species and their habitats.

The course brought together eight giant otter specialists from Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, French Guiana and Colombia, to contribute and compare experiences from different habitats. Their vision was to work towards a standard method for distribution surveys, population census and long-term monitoring of the species. A number of workshops were held, as well as a preliminary "brainstorming" session on how to incorporate the standardized field methodologies within an overall continental monitoring strategy using existing information for *Lutra lutra* as a starting point.

A second course was held in June 2003 in Peru, to collect vital input from the remaining giant otter researchers from Suriname, Guyana, Venezuela, Brazil, and Ecuador. For more information, please contact Jessica Groenendijk, fzsgop@terra.com.pe. You can also request to be put on the email list of the tri-annual Friends of the Giant Otter bulletin produced by the Frankfurt Zoological Society Giant Otter Project, Peru.

Jessica Groenendijk, Pteronura brasiliensis Species Coordinator



Pheasant

The Group's website continues to develop as the main source of information for members and others; a full membership listing and sections on Action Plan progress, project management, sources of funding and recent literature have all been added recently (see <http://www.gct.org.uk/psg>). As a Group, we are collaborating with the World Pheasant Association to produce profiles for the SSC website, and a code of practice on live-trapping, and with the World Pheasant Association and BirdLife International in revising the Red List assessments for pheasants.

Meanwhile, we are in the midst of an exceptionally active period of project work, entering the fourth year of five under the present Action Plan. Several projects now being written up as theses, reports and papers will greatly expand our understanding of the status and prospects of threatened pheasants, allowing strategic follow-up action to be taken in future. These studies have covered the distribution, threats, landscape-scale and micro-habitat preferences of western tragopan (*Tragopan melanocephalus*), Blyth's tragopan (*T. blythii*), satyr tragopan (*T. satyra*) and cheer (*Catreus wallichi*) in India, great argus (*Argusianus argus*) in Sumatra, Indonesia, Sclater's monal (*Lophophorus sclateri*) in Yunnan, Reeves's pheasant (*Syrnaticus reevesii*) in Henan and Elliot's pheasant (*S. ellioti*) in Guizhou (China).

At the January meeting of the Chair's Advisory Committee in the UK, we were able to recommend seven new projects for funding by the World Pheasant Association and other donors. These include a training visit to the UK for two pheasant staff from India (with the Government of Himachal Pradesh), a field survey techniques workshop in Bangladesh (with Dhaka University) and a new survey of the cheer pheasant population in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve in Nepal, 22 years after the only previous survey occurred (with Oriental Bird Club). Also included is further work on the distribution of Sclater's monal (*L. sclateri*) and Himalayan monal (*L. impejanus*) in northeast India (with the Bombay Natural History Society), surveys of the distribution and threats to Hume's pheasant (*Syrnaticus humiae*) in northern Thailand (with King Mongkut's University, Bangkok), the impact of bushmeat extraction on Galliformes species and other wildlife in northeast India and the provision and use of artificial nest platforms for Cabot's tragopan (*T. caboti*) in Zhejiang, China (with Beijing Normal University).

Peter Garson, Chair

Re-introduction

Re-introduction Specialist Group Resource CD—Version 1.0 January 2003

Since 1990, the Group has produced:

- ■ 22 issues of its newsletter, Re-introduction NEWS
- ■ IUCN Position Statement on the Translocation of Living Organisms
- ■ Guidelines for Re-introduction (in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian)
- ■ Guidelines for the Placement of Confiscated Animals (in English, French, Spanish and Arabic)
- ■ Re-introduction Practitioners Directory 1998
- ■ Guidelines for Non-human Primate Re-introductions
- ■ an RSG Literature Database v. 1.0 with over 1,700 entries from our library.

Diminishing stock of these products, coupled with high mailing costs led to the development, production and distribution of the Re-introduction Specialist Group Resource CD. The Group has since distributed this CD to its members and general mailing list worldwide, as well as donors, and through its Regional and Taxon Section Chairs.

The CD also contains the Group's and SSC's Strategic Plans, introductory information on SSC and various IUCN policy statements. It includes relevant information from the Cat Specialist Group, the Society for Ecological Restoration, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, with their kind permission.

In March, 2002, the Group held a Strategic Planning Workshop during which a Strategic Platform was developed which listed our possible contributions to the SSC Strategic Plan 2001–2010. The resource CD, in particular, addressed the Re-introduction Specialist Group's contribution to SSC's objective of providing access to SSC products and publications.

This planning session also pointed out the Group has more impact in developing countries, where there is a need for relevant expertise for capacity building and technical support for conserving threatened species and habitats. A wide distribution of our products via this CD will help meet this need. The CD ensures that users in countries with poor or limited access to the Internet can have immediate and direct access to our information. For those with Internet access, the CD is available on <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/rsg/index.htm>. We would like to thank the Denver Zoological Foundation, Environmental Research & Wildlife Development Agency (UAE), Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, and National Tropical Botanical Garden (USA) for their support in the production and distribution of the CD.

Pritpal S. Soorae, Program Officer

Salmon

Group Receives Funding and Recruits Partners

Salmon, the Pacific Rim's icon of environmental vitality, migrate long distances, en route crossing national and international borders. But restoration and conservation programs targeting salmon often operate in isolation, fragmented by the same political jurisdictions and boundaries. Comprehensive data and yardsticks to measure success are likewise scattered and disparate. And rather than link individual salmon stock declines to broader geographic trends across the entire North Pacific Rim—the historical range of salmon—salmon stock declines are viewed as localized events, one more bit of biodiversity slipping inexorably toward extinction.

In 2002 the SSC approved a proposal from the Portland, Oregon based Wild Salmon Center to create the Salmon Specialist Group. Over the last year the Wild Salmon Center and Salmon Specialist Group have

recruited 12 scientists from the United States, Canada, Russia and Japan, and sought funding to support Group activities.

Recently, the Salmon Specialist Group won significant support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, which approved a grant of \$2.03 million over three years to fund a project called "State of the Salmon." The project will be led by the Wild Salmon Center and Ecotrust, a conservation organization also based in Oregon, and will provide much-needed staff and technical support to the Group. The State of the Salmon program relies on enlisting international cooperation among the four salmon countries of the North. Its goal is to establish a borderless scientific salmon conservation effort to study the 67 distinct salmon bioregions that surround the North Pacific.

The State of the Salmon program will leverage, collect and synthesize public and privately held salmon information to create a vastly improved understanding of the dynamics of the North Pacific salmon ecosystem. This knowledge will facilitate the review, debate, and reform of salmon management policies. The State of the Salmon Atlas is the first scheduled publication, followed by annual State of the Salmon Reports. A website will provide a presence in cyberspace, and a triennial, international State of the Salmon conference will provide a forum for salmon experts from around the Pacific Rim to share their knowledge with salmon managers and the public.

The Moore Foundation grant will support a full time conservation biologist to staff the Salmon Specialist Group as well as support the development of salmon monitoring and stock status pro-

ocols and metrics that can be used across the Pacific Rim. With the support of the State of the Salmon team and the new conservation biologist, the Group will initiate a Red List assessment for salmonids, beginning with Pacific salmon species.

Guido Rahr, Chair

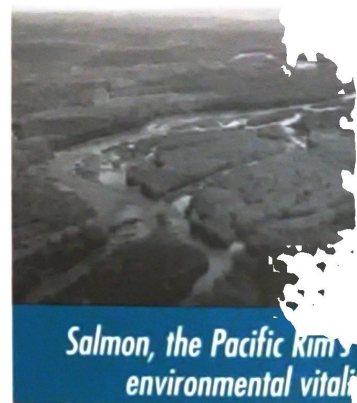
Shark

One of our biggest successes in 2002 was securing core funds from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. We have been granted USD 100,000 per year for two years which is a fantastic help to the Group. We also thank the US State Department, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the UK Department of the Environment, National Audubon Society Living Oceans Program and many other smaller donors for their generous support to the work of our Group.

The Group published the Sabah workshop proceedings on *Elasmobranch Biodiversity, Conservation and Management* as IUCN Occasional Paper No.25. This volume has already been immensely useful, with sections being quoted at various meetings including CITES, and many of the papers providing the only comprehensive source of information on sharks and rays from many Southeast Asian countries. In addition, *The Global Status of Chondrichthyan Fishes* will be published by IUCN this year and will be the most comprehensive resource documenting the worldwide threat to sharks, rays and chimaeras, and providing the "big picture" in terms of conservation needs. Members of the Group are also preparing a *Technical Manual for the Conservation and Management of Elasmobranchs* with support from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). The manual will cover a wide array of basic management subjects including Tagging, Age and Growth, Reproduction, Mortality, Stock Assessment and measures to avoid waste. It will be available in electronic format around September 2003, and published in hardcopy soon after.

The Shark Specialist Group has spent much energy providing input to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action – Sharks (IPOA-Sharks), and to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). Joint Shark Specialist Group/TRAFFIC documents were key to discus-

Three year State of the Salmon project funded



Salmon, the Pacific Rim's environmental vitality



sions regarding the role of FAO and CITES in shark conservation and management. You can read all about it on our website located at <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/organizations/ssg/ssg.htm>. Group members are being increasingly called upon to contribute to FAO technical consultations and workshops, and to provide advice to States and regional management bodies developing Shark Plans. We hope to be able to fund shark management training workshops in the near future in certain regions, to assist with implementation of the IPOA-Sharks.

The Group plans to complete Red List assessments for all sharks and as many rays and chimaeras as possible (totaling over 1,000 species worldwide) within the next 12 months as part of the Red List analysis to be launched at the World Conservation Congress in 2004. We have already begun this huge task with our first regional Red List workshop held in Australia in March (see News section).

We have also been busy expanding our network to improve the geographical representation and expertise of the group. Countries newly represented include: Algeria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Eritrea, Ghana, Israel, Madagascar, Mauritania, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania and United Arab Emirates.

Thanks to the whole Shark Specialist Group membership for a really successful year!

Rachel Cavanagh, Programme Officer

South Asian Invertebrate

Invertebrate Training Workshop on Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) Process

The South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group—South Asia and the Invertebrate Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA), in association with the IUCN Bangladesh Country Office, organized a training workshop on the CAMP workshop process, using invertebrate examples. The workshop acquainted the invertebrate conservation community with the CAMP process and trained participants in the use of the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria*. Attended by 31 scientists from Bangladesh and one from Pakistan, participants included invertebrate field biologists, university teachers and students, members from ministries and representatives from selected non-governmental organizations. Mr. Sanjay Molur, Red List Advisor, facilitated the workshop, generously hosted by the IUCN Bangladesh Country Office.

Included in the workshop were presentations aimed at understanding the invertebrate diversity of the country, examples of invertebrate species

assessments around the world, national and regional species assessments of vertebrate and plant groups from India, the Bangladesh experience on species assessments, invertebrate assessments in India: Soil and mangrove invertebrates, and the CAMP process. Participants were introduced to the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria* and Taxon Data Sheets and given the opportunity to practice using these tools. They then worked on assessments for three species and presented their results to a plenary. The final outcomes were: from the "bee" group, *Apis cerana*—Endangered, the "spider" group, *Heteropoda venatoria*—Least concern, and the "crab" group, *Tachypleus gigas*—Near Threatened. A CAMP for selected invertebrates of Bangladesh has been planned. Thanks to the London Zoo and CBSG South Asia for their financial support.

B.A. Daniel, Co-chair

South Atlantic Island Plant

The South Atlantic Island Plant Specialist Group brings together experts on the remote Islands of St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Ascension and the Falklands. Despite their geographical distance, the Islands, which are UK Overseas Territories, have close ties. Membership of the group is equally disparate, with members from the Islands themselves as well as specialists based as far apart as South Africa, Canada, UK and Austria.

Although the Group relies heavily on electronic communication, a UK Overseas Territories environment conference in March 2003 provided a venue where a significant number of members had the opportunity of meeting and discussing some of the conservation issues for this group of islands. St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Ascension and the Falklands Islands were all represented at the conference, as well as some of the UK-based members. For some it was a great opportunity to put a face to an email address!

Co-sponsor of the conference was the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum. This organization, its subgroup, the South Atlantic Islands Working Group, supports conservation efforts in the South Atlantic Islands. The South Atlantic Island Plant Specialist Group will be working closely with the Working Group to reinforce efforts for the conservation of the Islands' flora.

The islands' biodiversity faces many pressures from tourism, invasive alien species and development. Resources available for plant conservation, both in terms of personnel and funding, are limited. Linking into the IUCN network will help provide valuable information and experience, enable a sharing of experiences and hopefully diminish any feelings of isolation.

It was a great opportunity to put a face to an email address

The first priority of the Group has been Red List assessments and members have been working to meet the deadlines for submissions.

Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, Chair

Sustainable Use

A New Chair for Sustainable Use

In March 2003, Dr. Jon Hutton was appointed Chair of the IUCN Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SUSG). Jon is widely recognized as an authority on, and enthusiastic participant in, many aspects of international wildlife conserva-

tion policy, including CITES and wildlife trade, protected area management, community-based conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. He has made a conspicuous and interna-

tionally recognized contribution to crocodile conservation (in which he remains a specialist) as well as to conservation practice in Africa and our understanding of contemporary conservation issues in general.

As Chair, Jon is particularly keen to restructure and refocus the Group and is currently engaged in a series of discussions with the regional Chairs. A priority activity is to continue providing regional perspectives and recommendations to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

SUSG's Global Knowledge-Base Strengthened

The Central Africa SUSG has identified a core sample of credible key technical documentation and scientific publications that address the relationship between sustainable use and human livelihoods in Central Africa. This activity relates directly to Output 1 of the 2000 - 2004 SUSG Programme Framework. To download the documentation, visit the Central African SUSG web page at <http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/susg/susgs/centralafrica.html>. Contributions from the European and Australian/New Zealand Regional Groups are currently in preparation.

David Beamont, Sustainable Use Team

Tapir


2003 has been an extremely busy year already for the Tapir Specialist Group. We continue to work hard to improve our effectiveness in terms of conservation of tapirs and their remaining habitats in Latin America and Southeast Asia. Considerable time and energy has been spent on structuring the recently established Tapir Specialist Group Conservation Fund, a vehicle to raise funds for tapir conservation projects. We have been con-

ducting a number of fundraising campaigns in partnership with the Tapir Preservation Fund, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), and the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria Tapir Taxon Advisory Group. This is the first time all four major tapir conservation groups have joined forces to raise funds for tapir conservation. The Fund will support *in situ* and *ex situ* research, promote education within local communities, and implement conservation recommendations.

Another major priority for the Group is organizing the II International Tapir Symposium, to be held in Panama City, Republic of Panama, from 10-16 January, 2004. The symposium's planning committee has visited Panama in January 2003 and met with the Mayor of Panama City, Juan Carlos Navarro. The mayor has not only agreed to give the opening address at the symposium but has committed his staff to assist in promoting this conference. The AZA Tapir TAG and the Houston Zoo, as a result of our visit to Panama, are working on improving the tapir facilities at the Summit Zoo, just outside Panama City. This demonstrates the holistic approach to the II International Tapir Symposium.

The second Symposium will once again bring together a multi-faceted group of tapir experts, their major goal being to review the current conservation status of, and threats to, tapirs worldwide. They will address and prioritize the most serious issues facing tapir conservation and generate recommendations and strategies necessary for the conservation of tapirs, their remaining habitats, and biological diversity as a whole. Any results and recommendations coming from the Symposium will be incorporated into the upcoming revision of the 1997 *IUCN/SSC Tapir Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan*. Other documents that will be incorporated into the revised Action Plan include the *National Program for Tapir Conservation and Recovery in Columbia* produced by the Colombian Ministry of Environment and the Natural Science Institute of the National University of Colombia. The *National Action Plan for Tapir Conservation and Recovery in Mexico*, currently under development, and the *Malayan Tapir Action Plan*, to be developed during the upcoming *Malayan Tapir Conservation Workshop*, August, 2003 will also be included. Further, the Panamanian Mammal Society, in partnership with the Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, has been conducting an evaluation of the conservation status of tapirs in Panama, aiming to produce a regional Action Plan for tapirs. This document may also be incorporated into the updated Tapir Action Plan. For more information contact the Chair at epmedici@uol.com.br.

Patricia Medici, Chair



As Chair, Jon is keen to restructure and refocus the Group



Communications



On the Web

Check out the latest Specialist Group Profile in SSC's new web-based series (see *Species 38*). You can learn more about the conservation actions of Andy Green for marbled teal, Luis Silveira for Brazilian merganser and Nancy Drilling for white-winged duck of the Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group. See: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgprofiles/twsg.htm>

The *IUCN Technical Guidelines on the Management of Ex Situ Populations for Conservation* supersede the *IUCN Policy Statement on Captive Breeding*. Approved December 2002, the *Ex Situ* guidelines are now available on the SSC website in IUCN's three official languages: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/pubs/policy/exsituen.htm>

Other new information on the SSC website, <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/index.htm>, includes:

SSC governance documents:

<http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/aboutssc/steering.htm>

Equids and Cetacean Action Plans:

<http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/actionplans/actionplanindex.htm>

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Revised Authority Files and Questionnaire:

<http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sis/authority.htm>

Specialist Groups Online

With significant contributions from African Elephant Specialist Group members, "Studying Elephants" is now available electronically. The book focuses on studying elephants in the wild

and contains information about census methods, radio-collaring and satellite tracking, elephant behavior, and vocalizations. From the African Elephant Specialist Group home page (<http://iucn.org/afesg/index.html>), follow the link "Tools for Elephant Research and Management".

The Medicinal Plant Specialist Group has a new website. It can be reached directly at <http://mpsg.org>, or by following links from the SSC's Specialist Groups web page at <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/sgs.htm>. Recent issues

of the Group's newsletter, *Medicinal Plant Conservation*, are posted on the site, along with information on the current program, activities, and membership.

The SSC Veterinary Specialist Group's new website is available at <http://www.iucn-vsg.org/>. There you will find information on the goals and organization of the Group, as well as the results from their Futures Search Workshop, June 2002.

The Grouse Specialist Group (GSG) presents its new website: <http://www.gct.org.uk/gsg/>. As with the websites of the Pheasant Specialist Group and the Partridge, Quail and Francolin Specialist Group, this site is hosted at the Game Conservancy Trust in the UK.

The Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (Southern Africa) website has been recently updated. To check it out, visit <http://www.ewt.org.za/cbsg/>. Contact Yolán Friedmann at cbsgsa@woL.co.za with suggestions about the site's development.

Publications

Based on two workshops convened by IUCN, the new publication *Guidance for CITES Scientific Authorities: Checklist to assist in making non-detriment findings for Appendix II exports* presents the background to the development of the non-detriment finding checklist and explains how it works, in the hope that Scientific Authority staff will use and develop the parts of the approach that they find useful. The publication, an IUCN/SSC Occasional Paper, was compiled by Alison Rosser and Mandy Haywood of the Wildlife Trade Programme.

Turning the Tide: The Eradication of Invasive Species contains 52 papers and 21 abstracts from the International Conference on Eradication of Island Invasives. It includes a wide assortment of projects dealing with the ecological impacts of invasive alien species, and represents significant contributions from the Invasive Species Specialist Group. Abstracts of all papers are available at: <http://www.issg.org/> and hard copies are available from the IUCN Publications Services Unit, see below.

Equids: Zebras, Asses and Horses. Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan is a thorough, science-based assessment of the equids, and ecosystem and other requirements essential to their continued survival. Today, there are only seven species that remain, and most of these are threatened. The new Equid Action Plan provides current knowledge on the biology, ecology and conservation status of the different equid species, and prioritizes important conservation actions. For those interested in the zebras, asses and horses of the world, this publication represents the new benchmark of knowledge in the field.

Equids: Zebras, Asses and Horses

Edited by Patricia D. Moshimani



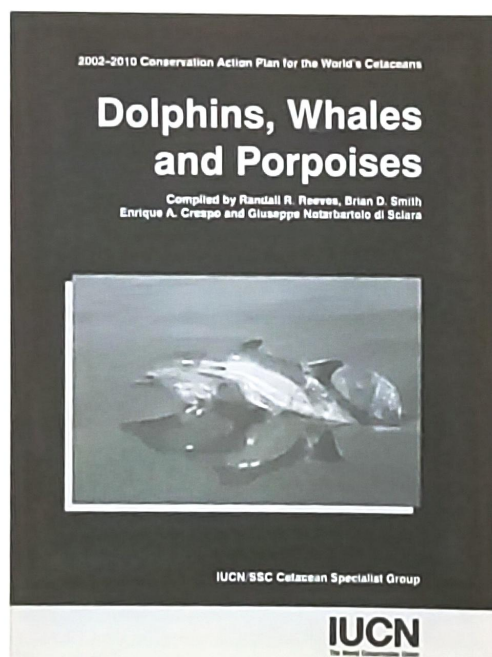
IUCN/SSC Equid Specialist Group

IUCN
The World Conservation Union

Dolphins, Whales and Porpoises: 2002-2010 Conservation Action Plan for the World's Cetaceans provides scientific information about the current status of cetaceans worldwide; identifies threats to their survival, ways to further understand and assess these threats; and recommends specific conservation actions, some directly related to management. As a guiding document for all those working to implement cetacean conservation, its value will be realized not only by scientists in the field and academic institutions, but also by those making crucial decisions about the future of cetaceans and their habitats.

Both the Equids and Cetaceans Action Plans are available on the SSC website at: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/actionplans/actionplanindex.htm>

All of these publications are available from the IUCN Publications Services Unit, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, United Kingdom. Tel: +44 1223 277894; fax: +44 1223 277175; Email: books@iucn.org



Meeting Announcements

Inaugural meeting of the European Invertebrates Specialist Group

8 September 2003, Cardiff, UK

This meeting is being held to coincide with meetings of the Bern Group of Invertebrate Experts and the European Invertebrate Survey. A colloquium on the theme of Red Listing European invertebrates will be held alongside. For details see: www.jncc.gov.uk/INCardiff2003.

World Parks Congress

8-17 September 2003, Durban, South Africa

The IUCN 5th World Congress on Protected Areas, or IUCN 5th World Parks Congress as it has become known, is a 10 yearly event which provides the major global forum for setting the agenda for protected areas. Look for more information at: www.iucn.org/wpc2003

World Wolf Congress 2003—Bridging Science and Community

25-28 September, 2003, Banff, Canada

The Central Rockies Wolf Project is inviting participants to share scientific and community approaches to wolf management and conservation. For more information, visit: <http://www.worldwolfcongress.ca/>

II International Tapir Symposium

10-16 January, 2004, Panama City, Republic of Panama

The II International Tapir Symposium will once again bring together tapir experts to give presentations and to address and prioritize the most serious issues facing tapir conservation today. Please visit the Symposium website: <http://www.caligo.com/tapir/>

International Conference on Desert Ungulate Biology and Conservation

March 2004, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

This conference aims to exchange ideas and discuss matters of management and conservation of desert ungulates and to present and discuss conservation strategies for major species. For more information contact the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD) at ncwcd@zajil.net

Technical Information

The Executive Committee reviews the SSC Strategic Plan

The SSC Executive Committee meeting, held in January 2003, focused on an assessment of SSC's progress against the SSC Strategic Plan. The Executive recognized the importance of examining the breadth of the Commission's work in terms of the Strategic Plan in order to identify targets and outputs that are not being met, and the barriers to achieving those outputs.

Overall, the Executive felt SSC is making good progress with its Strategic Plan. There were a number of areas for improvement and attention that may require some refining of the Plan, but the overall framework remains relevant.

However, the Executive recognized the need to improve taxonomic and regional representation and build capacity to ensure regular ongoing Red List assessments and develop biodiversity indicators. Also, there is a need to better understand how many countries are using the Red List Criteria, how to build a common understanding of red lists and how to connect national information to the IUCN Red List process. In its assessment, the Executive noted a need to make better use of existing bodies to capture other (non taxonomically-based) expertise within the SSC network.

To follow up, the Executive formed an Internal Operations Working Group charged with reviewing the objectives and program results within the Strategic Plan and suggesting changes including recommendations on whether structural changes are needed to improve implementation of the Strategic Plan.

You will find the minutes of this meeting at:
<http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/aboutssc/steering.htm>
and the SSC Strategic Plan can be found at:
<http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/members.htm>.

For more information contact the SSC Chair's office at: ssc-chair-office@iucn.org

New SSC Chairs and Specialist Groups

As we enter the second half of the current inter-session period, the SSC network has undergone a few changes. The Chairs of a number of existing Groups have stepped down and new leadership appointed.

- **Bob Lacy has taken on the challenge of directing the large, active Conservation Breeding Specialist Group after the passing of Ulie Seal.**
- **Jim Collins of Arizona State University will succeed the current Chair, James Hanken of the Declining Amphibians Task Force, who will be stepping down at the end of June.**
- **James Robinson, a waterbird ecologist with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, UK was recently appointed Chair of the Duck Specialist Group.**

- **The Marine Turtle Specialist Group, currently being supported by Perran Ross, interim administrator, is actively seeking a new Chair.**
- **The Southern African Plants Specialist Group is now under the leadership of Janice Golding, of the Southern African Botanical Diversity Network.**
- **A considerable amount of experience and energy is being brought to the Sustainable Use Specialist Group by its new Chair, Jon Hutton.**
- **Yves Ferrand, has taken on the Chair of the Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group and is busily planning a Group meeting for November, 2003.**

The SSC extends a heartfelt thank you for the hard work and commitment of the past Chairs.

In addition, a new Global Tree Specialist Group has been formed under the leadership of Sara Oldfield, seconded by Adrian Newton and Paul Mathew. Closely linked to Fauna and Flora International's Global Trees Campaign, this Group will focus on ensuring that all threatened trees are evaluated for the IUCN Red List, and promote conservation action. Under the guidance of the SSC Plant Conservation Committee, the Group will work closely with all existing Specialist Groups covering trees (African Trees, Conifers, and Palms), as well as with all the regional plant Specialist Groups. Contact Sara for further information, sara.oldfield@fauna-flora.org.

Award granted to Holly Dubin

Congratulations to Holly Dublin, SSC Executive Committee Member and Chair of the African Elephant Specialist Group, on receiving the WWF Conservation Merit Award for outstanding conservation achievements focusing on individual species, biodiversity and protected areas throughout Africa.

Membership News

Questions about SSC membership? You can now email all your membership-related questions (including any changes of address) to: sscmembers@iucn.org.

CD-ROM instructions

2003 Directory and Information Resource

ENGLISH

This CD-ROM should run on any system capable of reading hypertext (html) files. The CD has been designed to be viewed by most Internet browsers with multiple operating systems. For technical reasons many pages of the Directory were designed using frames, consequently browsers should be capable of reading frames (e.g. Netscape © 3.0 or Internet Explorer © 3.0 or more recent)

The CD was designed to be an Autorun CD, so it should open automatically after insertion in your CD ROM drive. If the autorun feature does not work on your system, open your Windows Explorer or equivalent File Manager and click on the CD-ROM drive; then click on the file <<index.htm>>

Many documents are in .PDF format which can be read using the Acrobat® Reader™ which can be downloaded from this CD (in the <Adobe> folder) or from Adobe's website (<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>).

ESPANOL

Este CD - ROM debería funcionar con cualquier sistema capaz de leer archivos "hypertext" (html). Este CD ha sido diseñado con la intención de que pueda ser utilizado con diversos programas de visualización de páginas Internet y con diferentes sistemas operativos. Por razones técnicas muchas páginas del Directorio se diseñaron usando "marcos," por consiguiente los visores de páginas deberán ser capaces de visualizar marcos (por ej. Netscape 3.0 o Internet Explorer 3.0 o más reciente)

El CD ha sido diseñado para funcionar automáticamente luego que ha sido colocado en el lector de CD. Si el mismo no corre automáticamente en su sistema, utilice el Explorador de Windows o su programa de gestión de archivos y pulse sobre el CD ROM; luego pulse sobre el archivo <<index.htm>>

Muchos documentos están en formato .PDF formato, los cuales pueden leerse usando el programa Acrobat® Reader™. El mismo puede obtenerse en este CD (en la carpeta <Adobe>) o del sitio Internet: (<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>).

FRANCAIS

Ce CD-Rom devrait fonctionner avec tout système pouvant lire les dossiers hypertexte (html). Le CD a été conçu pour être utilisé avec la plupart des navigateurs Web et avec divers systèmes d'exploitation. Pour des raisons techniques de nombreuses pages de l'Annuaire ont été créées avec des cadres (frames), par conséquent les navigateurs Web devraient être capables de lire les cadres (par ex. Netscape © 3.0 ou Internet Explorer © 3.0 ou plus récent).

Le CD a été élaboré pour démarrer automatiquement dès qu'il est inséré dans le lecteur de CD-Rom. Si le programme automatique lancé ne fonctionne pas dans votre système, utilisez votre Explorateur de Windows ou votre programme de gestion de fichiers et cliquez sur le lecteur de CD-Rom ; ensuite cliquez sur le dossier <<index.htm>>

De nombreux documents sont en format .PDF et peuvent être lus avec le programme Acrobat® Reader(tm) qui peut être téléchargé depuis ce CD (dans le dossier <Adobe>) ou depuis le site Internet (<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>).



If you have problems running this CD contact us at:

Si usted tiene problemas con este CD contáctenos a:

Si vous rencontrez des problèmes lors de l'utilisation de ce CD vous pouvez nous contacter à :

Species Survival Commission, IUCN - The World Conservation Union,

Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196, Gland, Switzerland

Tel: +41/22/999-0000 | Fax: +41/22/999-0015 | Email: ssc@iucn.org

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Page 12	<i>Naufraga balearica</i> Bertrand de Montmollin
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IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN an effective SSC communications network, we need your submissions and updates for *Species*. Submissions for *Species 40* are due **October 6, 2003**. Submissions should be addressed to:

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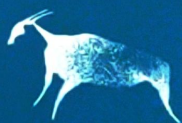
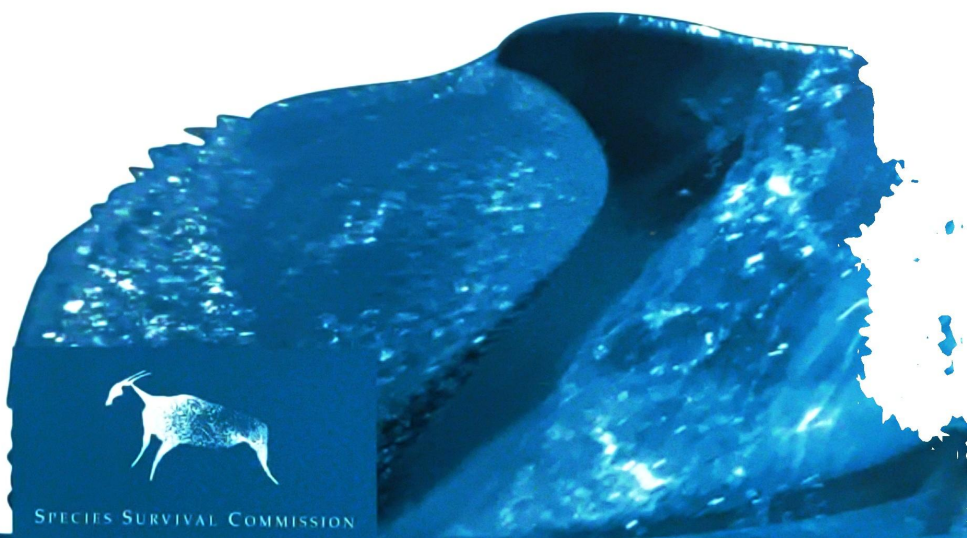
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For more information on any item included in this issue, please contact *Team Species* at ssc-chair-office@iucn.org



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